



**DISK RECORDING-AND-REPRODUCING DEVICE HAVING OPENABLE LID
PROVIDED WITH DISK HOLDER**

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to a device for recording and reproducing data from a disk such as a CD or DVD, and more particularly to a small-sized recording-and-reproducing device.

2. Related Art

[0002] Fig. 4 shows a small-sized disk recording-and-reproducing device commercially available. As shown, the device comprises a casing and a lid 1 hinged to the casing to open and close the casing. The lid 1 has a display 2 formed on its flat surface. The casing contains a recording-and-reproducing unit 3, which is partly exposed to confront the display 2 when the lid 1 is closed. The lid 1 is rotatable about its pivots 7, 7 to open and close the casing. When the lid 1 is inclined outward in its opening position, a disk 5 can be put in or removed from opening space 4 defined between the casing and the lid 1.

[0003] As seen from Fig. 5, the lid 1 has a "kangaroo" pocket-like disk holder 6 formed on its rear side. The disk holder 6 has a circular disk-catch projection 8 formed at a center of the lid 1. Fig. 6 shows the casing with the lid 1 removed therefrom. The recording-and-reproducing unit 3 is contained in the casing, and a turntable 9 appears on a front side of the casing. The disk 5 put in the disk holder 6 is sandwiched between the disk-catch projection 8 and the turntable 9 when the lid 1 is closed.

[0004] The disk recording-and-reproducing device as described above can have a minimum thickness; and the device can be loaded with a disk manually, thus requiring no automatic loading unit, which comprises a disk tray and a tray drive. When the lid 1 is open, the disk 5 can be removed from the opening space 4 between the casing and the lid 1, as described earlier. The disk 5 is put in the disk holder 6, and then the lid 1 is closed. In a closing position the disk 5 is held on its center by a central hub of the turntable 9, and it is kept free of any interference from surrounding things. Therefore, there is no fear of the disk 5 being damaged.

[0005] Referring to Figs. 7(a) and 7(b), the disk 5 is put in the disk holder 6 of the inclined lid 1 (see Fig. 7a), and then, the lid 1 shuts to put the disk 5 on the turntable 9 (Fig. 7b). As seen from Fig. 7(a), the central hub of the turntable 9 is so chamfered that the disk 5 may be drawn and fitted onto the chamfered hub when the disk 5 is brought close to the turntable 9.

[0006] A range within which the disk 5 can be drawn and automatically centered relative to the hub of the turntable 9 is very limited, and therefore, when the disk 5 is not brought close enough to get within this limited range, it may be pinched between the turntable 9 and the disk-catch projection 8 in an off-center position, thereby taking a somewhat inclined posture. This will be a cause for damaging the disk.

[0007] One object of the present invention is to provide a disc recording-and-reproducing device which is capable of automatically putting a disk in centering position relative to a hub of a turntable.

10 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] To attain this object a disk recording-and-reproducing device comprising a box-like casing and a lid hinged to the casing to rotate about its pivot for opening and closing the casing, with the lid having a disk holder fixed to its rear side, is improved according to the present invention in that the lid has a swingable lever rotatably fixed to the rear side of the lid at a bottom of the disk holder. The swingable lever has a resilient boss such as a rubber piece fixed to its lower end, thereby making the swingable lever stand upright in parallel with the rear side of the lid when the lid is opened, and that the casing has a projection formed in confronting relation with the lower end of the swingable lever. The projection has an inclined top descending toward a free end so that the swingable lever is pushed on the lower side by the inclined top to slide thereon just before the lid completely shuts, thus making the swingable lever swing about its pivot apart from a lower end of the disk holder.

[0009] On inserting the disk 5 into the disk holder 6 and then shutting the lid 1, a central hole of the disk 5 is led to a central hub of the turntable 9, making the swingable lever 10 rotate about its pivots 11, 11; the swingable lever 10 is pushed on the lower side by an inclined top 14a of the projection 14 to slide thereon just before the lid 1 completely shuts. Thus, when the disk 5 is held between the turntable 9 and disk-catch projection 8, the swingable lever 10 is apart from rectangular notch 6a of the bottom of the disk holder 6, thus putting the disk 5 free in position.

[0010] The swingable lever may be an L-shaped piece having an upper flat shelf for supporting a disk when inserted into the disk holder.

[0011] Other objects and advantages of the present invention will be understood from the following description of a disk recording-and-reproducing device according to one preferred embodiment of the present invention, which is shown in accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0012] Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a lid of a disk recording-and-reproducing device according to the present invention as viewed from inside the device;

[0013] Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a swingable lever attached to a lower edge of a disk holder of the lid;

[0014] Fig. 3(a) is a longitudinal sectional view of the disk recording-and-reproducing device with its lid opened, whereas Fig. 3(b) is a similar longitudinal sectional view of the disk recording-and-reproducing device with its lid closed;

[0015] Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a conventional disk recording-and-reproducing device with its lid opened;

[0016] Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a lid of the conventional disk recording-and-reproducing device as viewed from inside the device;

[0017] Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the conventional device with its lid removed, showing some parts of the device appearing on a front of a casing; and

[0018] Fig. 7(a) is a longitudinal sectional view of the conventional device with its lid opened, whereas Fig. 7(b) is a similar longitudinal sectional view of the conventional device with its lid closed.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0019] A recording-and-reproducing device according to the present invention is a small-sized disk device having a minimum thickness as seen from Figs. 3(a) and 3(b), which basically is similar to the conventional recording-and-reproducing device. The device comprises a box-like casing and a lid 1 hinged to the casing so as to rotate about its pivot for opening and closing the casing. As seen from Fig. 1, the lid 1 has a disk holder 6 fixed to its rear side. The disk holder 6 has a disk-catch projection 8 at its center for holding a disk 5 between a confronting turntable 9 of a recording-and-reproducing unit 3. A rectangular notch 6a is formed at a bottom of the disk holder 6. Also, the lid 1 has round pivot projections 7, 7 projecting from its opposite lower corners. The lid 1 has a swingable lever 10 rotatably fixed to a rear side of the lid 1 with its shelf (later described) in the rectangular notch 6a of the disk holder 6.

[0020] Referring to Fig. 2, the swingable lever 10 is an L-shaped piece having an upper flat shelf 12 for supporting the disk 5 when inserted in the disk holder 6. The lever 10 has round pivot bosses 11, 11 projecting from its opposite intermediate portions, and these pivot bosses 11 are fitted in counter bearings 11a, 11a, which are provided at lower ends of the disk holder 6 (see Figs. 3(a) and

3(b)). Thus, the swingable lever 10 can swing about its pivot bosses 11. The swingable lever 10 has a resilient boss 13 such as a rubber piece fixed to its lower end, particularly below a pivot axle of the pivot bosses 11, thereby making the swingable lever 10 stand upright in parallel with the rear side of the lid 1 when the lid is opened (see Fig. 3a). When a disk 5 is inserted into the disk holder 6, the disk stays on the flat shelf 12 so that it may be put in an exact position relative to a central hub of the turntable 9 when the lid 1 is closed.

[0021] As seen from Figs. 3(a) and 3(b), the casing has a projection 14 formed in confronting relation with the lower end of the swingable lever 10. The projection 14 has an inclined top 14a descending toward a free end. On inserting the disk 5 into the disk holder 6 and then shutting the lid 1, a central hole of the disk 5 is led to the central hub of the turntable 9, making the swingable lever 10 rotate about its pivots 11, 11; the swingable lever 10 is pushed on a lower side by the inclined top 14a of the projection 14 to slide thereon just before the lid 1 completely shuts. Thus, when the disk 5 is held between the turntable 9 and disk-catch projection 8, the swingable lever 10 is apart from the rectangular notch 6a of the bottom of the disk holder 6, thus putting the disk 5 free in position (see Fig. 3b).

[0022] As may be understood from the above, advantageously an allowance for making disk recording-and-reproducing devices is less severe, in respect of centering a disk relative to a hub of a turntable, than before.